

Interbasin Compact Committee
Southwest Basins Roundtable Meeting
Via Zoom
January 20, 2022

Members Present:

Randy Carver	Montezuma County	April Montgomery	San Miguel County
Dave Kanzer	Colorado River WCD	Al Pfister	San Juan WCD
Ken Curtis	At Large Member	Kathy Rall	Southern Ute Indian Tribe
Carolyn Dunmire	At Large Recreation	Gretchen Rank	At Large Member
Glen Fish	Dolores WCD	Gigi Richard	At Large Member
Bill Frownfelter	At Large Member	Buck Skillen	At Large Member
Karen Guglielmone	San Miguel Municipalities	Ed Tolen	At Large Domestic Water
Steve Harris	Legislative Appointee	Val Valentine	Mineral County
Celene Hawkins	CWCB Representative	Jim Wells	San Miguel WCD
Kenny Heldman	Montrose Municipalities	Bruce Whitehead	Animas La Plata WCD
Brandon Johnson	At Large Member	Mely Whiting	At Large Environmental
Rich Landreth	Montezuma Municipalities	Steve Wolff	SW Water Conservation District

Public:

Stacy Beaugh (Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) Update Local Expert Team), Adrian Bergere (San Miguel Watershed Coalition), Elaine Chick (Water Information Program, PEPO Liaison), Mandy Eskelson (Mountain Studies Institute), George Gavrielides (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Dan Gibbs (Colorado Department of Natural Resources), Roy Horvath (Public), Blake Mamich (Southern Ute Indian Tribe), Carrie Padgett (BIP Update Local Expert Team), Jeff Rodriguez (Public), Russ Sands (Colorado Water Conservation Board “CWCB”), Laura Spann (SW Water Conservation District, Roundtable Recorder), Sam Stein (CWCB), Ryan Unterreiner (Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Greg Vlaming (Rockin V Soil & Water), Kat Weismiller (CWCB)

1. Introductions & Review Agenda

Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

2. Elections

Two At Large Roundtable Seats

Ken Curtis moved to elect Brandon Johnson as At Large Agricultural Representative by acclamation. Bruce Whitehead second. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Buck Skillen and Danny Wilkin described their interest and qualifications for serving as At Large Representative to the Roundtable. The Roundtable elected Buck Skillen via secret ballot.

Comments from Dan Gibbs, DNR Director and IBCC Director

Dan Gibbs, Colorado Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director and Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Director, introduced himself and summarized his background in natural resources and public office. He applauded the Southwest Basins Roundtable for their seven goals outlined in the proposed Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) update, described his vision for the IBCC, and detailed state efforts to mitigate wildfire risk and improve forest health. Mr. Gibbs outlined the governor’s budget proposal for FY2022-2023, which prioritizes investments in climate change, forest health, and drought mitigation. DNR plans to increase staffing at CWCB and the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR) to support these efforts, including the addition of a dedicated DNR tribal liaison.

3. Administrative Reports

Review and Approval of Minutes

Ken Curtis moved to approve the June 24th, September 28th and October 28th Roundtable minutes. Al Pfister seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Roundtable Meeting Posting Location

Al Pfister moved to adopt a resolution designating the Southwest Basins Roundtable's 2022 meeting posting location as <https://waterinfo.org/resources/southwest-basin-roundtable>. Ken Curtis seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Officer Reports

Steve Wolff, SW Water Conservation District, asked that the Southwest Basins Roundtable initiate the process to replace Laura Spann as Recorder. Laura will support the Roundtable until a replacement is identified and trained.

CWCB board member Celene Hawkins highlighted several topics on the CWCB's January meeting agenda, including consideration of several CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant Program applications from southwest Colorado and a board workshop to review the Colorado Water Plan update.

Basin WSRF Fund Balance

The WSRF Basin Fund balance is \$603,093, of which \$191,400 is federal relief that must be appropriated by March 2023.

3. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

4. Public Education, Participation & Outreach (PEPO) Liaison Report

Elaine Chick, PEPO Liaison, summarized the Water 22 campaign, which will highlight water's integral role in Colorado's future. As part of the Water 22 effort, Elaine will be collaborating with Water Education Colorado to produce a mini tour in fall 2022 about southwest Colorado's projects to date. Governor Polis will issue a Water 22 proclamation at Colorado Water Congress Annual Conference, officially launching the campaign which will have its own website and encourage the public to sign a pledge for "22 ways you can save water in 2022."

After some Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) grant contracting delays, development of the Roundtable website is now underway. CWCB has announced that up to \$25,000 per basin will be available through a new granting process to support PEPO activities and coordination. There was Roundtable consensus to form an Education Committee to plan PEPO activities for FY2022-2023. CWCB will also make available \$75,000 for coordinated statewide PEPO activities.

5. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update

Sam Stein and Russ Sands, CWCB staff, thanked the Roundtable members for their efforts in updating the BIP and solicited feedback on the BIP process via the CWCB's survey. Colorado State University Extension Program is offering a virtual [Drought Leadership Training Program](#) in February and March.

Updated WSRF Criteria and Guidelines

The CWCB board adopted changes to the WSRF criteria and guidelines effective January 2022 to ensure reliable funding amidst severance tax volatility. These changes include: 1) providing a flat annual distribution of \$300,000 per basin account per year (for a three-year pilot period); 2) removing the statewide account as a match fund and using the balance to fund basin accounts, 3) instituting a basin account cap of \$750,000 (the maximum basins can carry from year to year), 4) approving a \$3 million infusion of funds to cover the first year's \$300,000 basin disbursement, and 5) creating a PEPO grant program that provides basins with up to \$25,000/year. [Click here to read the 2022 WSRF guidelines.](#) There was Roundtable discussion regarding the implications of these changes for southwest Colorado WSRF applications. There was Roundtable consensus to convene the WSRF Subcommittee to ensure the Roundtable-specific guidelines coordinate with the 2022 WSRF criteria and guidelines.

6. Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) Update

There were no IBCC updates beyond what Director Gibbs reported.

7. Consider Approving the Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)

Carrie Padgett, Harris Water Engineering, presented the final Southwest Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) update for consideration and final adoption. Russ Sands clarified the Colorado Attorney General’s Office recent BIP revision regarding depletions resulting from future transmountain diversions. Ken Curtis moved to adopt the Basin Implementation Plan update as presented, with the opportunity for minor adjustments by Roundtable members via email by Tuesday, January 25th. Brandon Johnson seconded. There was discussion regarding the abridged timeline for final consideration. The motion passed by unanimous consent. Roundtable Chair Ed Tolen thanked the Roundtable members and BIP consultants for their commitment to the BIP update process.

8. Colorado River Issues Subcommittee

Ken Curtis summarized the morning Colorado River subcommittee, which included presentations from Michelle Garrison (CWCB) on Colorado River hydrology and reservoir operations, Amy Ostdiek (CWCB) on demand management and other drought resiliency tools, and Peter Fleming (Colorado River District) on the River District’s demand management program strawman proposal or “punching bag.” Ken Curtis outlined proposed discussion topics for the April and July meetings. The Colorado River subcommittee discussed whether to develop a Southwest Basin Roundtable demand management statement. Al Pfister moved to continue demand management education through the Colorado River subcommittee and discuss how to support water users through existing shortages, after which the Roundtable may consider developing a consensus demand management document. Gigi Richard seconded. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

9. Upcoming Events

SWCD’s 38 th Southwest Water Seminar	April 1, 2022
Regular Roundtable Meeting and WSRF Consideration	April 28, 2022
Regular Roundtable Meeting	July 28, 2022
Regular Roundtable Meeting and WSRF Consideration	October 27, 2022

10. Adjournment

Chair Ed Tolen adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.